



Sunday, October 11 ~ 19th Sunday after Pentecost

In a flash in the middle of the road, God unravels Saul's identity as a persecutor of Christ-followers and invites him to blindly stumble onto a new path. His conversion requires Ananias, a disciple vulnerable to Paul's threats, to place his hands on Saul's eyes so that he might see the world anew as Paul the Apostle. This new path for Paul later leads him to endure prison, persecution, travel, and trial. However, it also

comes with new life, community, belonging, and hope. Sometimes God calls us into uncharted territory, and maybe our unraveling is simply a holy, fresh start.

Prelude: "Silence may be kept"

from Rubrics Dan Locklair

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Gathering Words/Welcome and Announcements

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

If possible, prepare your worship space with a cup filled with water and an empty bowl. The presence of water reminds us of God's forgiveness that comes to us through the Sacrament of Baptism. During this time of physical distance and fasting from the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we cling with confident hope to the promise that by God's love and grace, we are made one with Christ in baptism.

Call to Worship and Confession:

God of mystery, you called Ananias by name

and he responded, "Here I am."

You called Paul to the work of your Church,

and he responded by giving his life to your Word.

Similarly, you call us into community and faith,

So we respond with love and time, energy and hope.

We respond with worship.

Let us worship the God of transformation and grace. Amen.

As we gather, we confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in

newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen

Giving thanks that we become brothers and sisters in Christ through the gift of baptism, we share God's peace with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Greet those with whom you worship physically with a sign of peace, extend the peace of Christ through the comments section or text to those who are at a distance.

Gathering Hymn :	God, Whose Almighty Word	#673
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1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
Wis - dom, Love, Might: bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - ri - ous ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide, let there be light.

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily in the soprano and alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each corresponding to a line of the hymn. The first system includes a four-part vocal entry. The second system continues the melody with a piano accompaniment. The third system features a more complex piano accompaniment with a key signature change to two sharps (D major). The fourth system concludes the hymn with a final piano accompaniment.

Greeting:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day:

Let us pray. O Lord God, unravel our assumptions and animosities so that we might become a vessel of your radical love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Children's Moment

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Song of Thanksgiving

ELW 508, vs 1

As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth, as snow from the heav-ens re -

fresh-ing the land. Then soft-en our soil that the good seed may grow and rip-en rich

fruit to re - turn to your hand. We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word; we

thank you, good gar-d'ner, for your ten - der toil. We bless you, best farm-er, for

hun - dred - fold yield, for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and suitable for children's voices. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The score ends with a double bar line.

Reading: Acts 9:1-20

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” ⁷The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. ⁸Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. ⁹For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.


¹⁰Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” ¹¹The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, ¹²and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” ¹³But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; ¹⁴and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” ¹⁵But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; ¹⁶I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” ¹⁷So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, ¹⁹and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”

The word of the Lord.


Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day:	Bless Now, O God, the Journey	#326
<i>(see the following page)</i>		



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: J.L. ANGIOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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Apostles Creed:

In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Offering

Though we meet virtually, the ministry of God's people at BLC continues. Our worship is complete when we bring all of our resources to receive God's blessing and fulfill God's purpose. This time of uncertainty and reduced physical contact gives us ever more opportunities to share our abundance – of compassion, of time, and of material resources. If you are able, please continue your financial commitment to BLC.

If you would like to make a one-time gift electronically, scan the QR (quick response) code on the right and you'll be brought to BLC's mobile giving page. For recurring gifts, download the Tithe.ly app. Checks may also be mailed to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 48 Perrin Street, Fairport, NY 14450.



Whatever form your offering takes, we give thanks to God for you and your generosity.

Offering of Music:

“Sing to the Lord of Harvest”

Chancel Choir (Jim Jefferis, Director)

Robert Wetzler



The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good, the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food. No gifts have we to of - fer for all your love im - parts, but what you most would trea - sure, our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts. All good gifts a - round us are sent from heav'n a - bove. We thank you, Lord, we thank you, Lord, for all your love.'

Offertory Prayer:

Let us pray. Merciful God,

we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

In the silences of our prayer you are encouraged to remember those whose needs are known to us listed below. You may also lift up the name of someone in need of prayer in the comments of our worship livestream.

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the Church, the human family, and all the world.

God of forgiveness, you see us always and welcome us in love. Help us to forgive those who hurt us and offer your welcome to our neighbors. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the congregation of Bethlehem and for your church around the world. Today we pray for these members and friends of Bethlehem and their families: Melissa, Kris, Brian & Erika, Terri, Bob & Donna. We also pray for our sisters and brothers in our twinned parish in Shurugwi, Zimbabwe. Hear us, O God,

Your mercy is great.

God of compassion, you know our needs better than we ourselves. We pray for those who grieve, especially the family and friends of:

- *Glen (friend of Becki & Bob) who died on 10/4*
- *Mary (aunt of Mark, Annalisse and Cameron and Godmother to Cameron & sister of Jeanne) who died on 9/29*

We pray for the people who are struggling in body, mind or spirit especially:

- *Paula who is in hospice care*
- *Kathy (former BLC Choir Director) who is recovering from hip replacement*
- *Those impacted by fires, hurricanes and other disasters*
- *Those who are involved with the ongoing work of caregiving for loved ones*
- *Those who are infected with the Coronavirus and their caregivers*

Hear the prayers that we offer you now either silently or aloud.

Hear us, O God,
Your mercy is great.

Receive these prayers O God and those too deep for words through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer:

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught:

Our Father in heaven,
 hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom come,
 your will be done,
 on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial
 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
 now and forever. Amen

WE LEAVE TO SERVE:

Benediction:

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn:	<i>O Day Full of Grace</i>	#627
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(see following page for music)

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Prelude on “Hyfrydol”

(ELW #631)

Ralph Vaughn Williams

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It consists of five systems of music. Each system has a vocal staff (treble clef) and a piano staff (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is in a hymn style, with a steady, rhythmic melody. The lyrics are in English and describe the Easter story and the resurrection.

1 O day full of grace that now we see ap - pear - ing on
 2 O day full of grace, O bless - ed time, our Lord on the
 3 For Christ bore our sins, and not his own, when he on the
 4 God came to us then at Pen - te - cost, the Spir - it new
 5 When we on that fi - nal jour - ney go that Christ is for

earth's ho - ri - zon, bring light from our God that we may
 earth ar - riv - ing; then came to the world that light sub -
 cross was hang - ing; and then he a - rose and moved the
 life re - veal - ing, that we might no more in death be
 us pre - par - ing, we'll gath - er in song, our hearts a -

be a - bun - dant in joy this sea - son, God, shine for us
 lime, great joy for us all re - triev - ing; for Je - sus all
 stone, that we, un - to him be - long - ing, might join with an -
 lost, its pow'r o - ver us dis - pel - ling, This flame will the
 glow, all joy of the heav - ens shar - ing, and there we will

now in this dark place; your name on our hearts em - bla - zon.
 mor - tals did em - brace, all shame and des - pair re - mov - ing.
 gel - ic hosts to raise our voic - es in end - less sing - ing.
 mark of sin ef - face and bring to us all true heal - ing.
 join God's end - less praise, with an - gels and saints a - dor - ing.

Text: Scandinavian folk hymn; tr. Gerald Thorson, 1921–2001, alt.
 Music: DEN SIGNEDE DAG, Christoph E. F. Weyse, 1774–1842
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Calendar for week of October 11 – October 18

(Updated on 10/8/20 at 12 noon, visit <https://blcfairport.org/event-directory/> for updates)

Sunday, October 11

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship (recording
available following worship)
10:00 am Zoom* Congregational
Forum
([Join](#) or use ID 850 0255 2029)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

Monday, October 12

7:00 pm Zoom* GFL
Confirmation
([Join](#) or use ID 859 4816 8778)

Tuesday, October 13

Wednesday, October 14

9:30 am Zoom* Bible Study
([Join](#) or use ID 943 3691 2942)
6:00 pm Mission & Social
Concerns
6:30 pm Chancel Bells
7:30 pm Zoom* Chancel Choir
Rehearsal
([Join](#) or use ID 869 2314 9200)

Thursday, October 15

6:30 pm Zoom* Council

Friday, October 16

Pastor's Sabbath

10:00 am Folk Group Rehearsal

Saturday, October 17

9:30 am Zoom* Women's Brunch
Bunch
([Join](#) ID 860 6550 2067)

Sunday, October 18

8:30 am Facebook
Livestream
Worship (recording
available following worship)
9:45 am Zoom* Coffee with a
Pastor
([Join](#) or use ID 823 7018 2058)
7:30 pm Zoom* LYO
([Join](#) or use ID 818 2417 6546)

For additional details about any of the meetings, events and activities listed above contact the church office!

Church Office Hours: We continue to hold remote office hours M-F from 9 am to 12 noon. During these times, please call (585) 223-0634 to reach us directly, otherwise you may continue to email us at office@blcfairport.org and we'll respond as we're able. For further assistance or urgent pastoral care needs outside of office hours, please call the office and leave a message on the pastoral care line. Pastor Amy remains available by phone and email at other times.

***To join any of our BLC Zoom meetings, use the ID provided or contact the church office and/or group organizer.**

***Zoom Options:** For recurring meetings, the info will remain the same each time. Participants can join with the link provided (above where applicable, or via email), or by using the Meeting ID and manually enter the password (the 10-digit BLC phone number with area code, no spaces or hyphens). **Please contact the group leader or the church office for assistance or additional details! If you have trouble accessing a Zoom meeting in real-time, you can call or text (585) 364-2129 for assistance.**

Reflection

Unraveling – the word brings to mind a beautiful knit sweater with one thread hanging out. Somehow that thread catches, and the whole beautiful pattern comes apart into a confusing, jumbled mess. Of course, unraveling can happen to more than just sweaters – plans, ideas, and lives can unravel into a jumbled mess just as they seem to be coming to fruition. Such was the case with Saul. Saul's life was a model of organization and planning – trained and educated and dedicated to be a diligent follower of Jehovah God. And Saul was not about to let some upstart group of Jesus followers upset the apple cart. He was at the stoning of Stephen, and he dedicated himself to ridding the world of this group and their heresies. As a result, Saul finds himself on the road to Damascus infused with zealous purpose. And it's here where God pulls on that little thread hanging out, and Saul's life comes apart, and he can only cry out, "Who are you, Lord?"

How about us? When that lighted ball dropped on Times Square and everyone shouted, "Happy New Year 2020!", things seemed pretty organized, pretty defined, and the way forward seemed clear. And then there was a pandemic, and political pandemonium, and recession, and racial divisions, and fires, and hurricanes, and we haven't even talked about all the personal trials that always surround us – death, aging, loss, isolation. Yes, the little and not so little dangling threads hanging out of our buttoned down, organized lives got pulled, and, like Saul, we find ourselves at the end of our ability to control things, crying, "Where are you, Lord?"

But back to the story of Saul. In Damascus, a faithful follower of this Jesus, Ananias, was having his life unraveled by the raging dedication of Saul. In spite of this, the Jesus he loved was telling him to go and heal the very Saul who was the enemy trying to arrest him. Right here, in the midst of Ananias's fear and confusion, Jesus reminds him of another meaning for unravel that we tend to forget when we are confused and frightened. Unravel doesn't just mean to pull apart something that's organized. It also means to unravel a confusing mystery and make the incomprehensible understandable. In the debris of two unraveled lives, God was unraveling and clarifying and shining a light on the divine plan of salvation for humanity – and calling Saul and Ananias to be part of it. Like both of them, we often get so afraid and distracted and overwhelmed with the all the debris and noise and loss of our unraveled world and lives that we forget to look and hear and be loved by the God who is shining a light on our false sense of security, who is pleading with us to abandon our controlling patterns, who is unraveling the mystery of life and offering us a new, abundant life. Lord, open us to hear, open us to see, open us to the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Open us to the peace that passes all understanding.

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